UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25201
30 January 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine dated 29 January 1993, in connection with the sanctions regime on the Danube (see annex).

I kindly request Your Excellency to have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Victor H. BATIOUK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English/Russian]

Statement dated 29 January 1993 by the
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

Recently various media have circulated reports to the effect that Ukraine is supplying petroleum products to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) by way of the River Danube, thereby violating United Nations sanctions against that country.

In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine considers it necessary to make the following statement:

To the knowledge of the organs of Ukraine responsible for monitoring implementation of United Nations decisions concerning the application of sanctions against FRY contained in Security Council resolutions 757 (1992) of 30 May 1992 and 787 (1992) of 16 November 1992, all State and Government authorities of Ukraine are strictly applying the embargo regime.

During the period from November 1992 to January 1993, five tugboats sailing under the FRY flag towing more than 30 barges loaded with petroleum products were observed travelling along that part of the River Danube which lies within Ukrainian territory.

Investigations showed that the barges had been loaded with petroleum products from tankers on the River Danube. At the same time it was reliably established that the said petroleum products had been offloaded by companies and organizations of Russia, Bulgaria, Greece, Cyprus and Turkey with a view to their subsequent delivery to Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and the former Czech and Slovak Federal Republic. Thus, for example, the Russian company Salavatneftegazsintez has recently offloaded some 3,000 tons of diesel fuel for Bosnia and Herzegovina; this fact is borne out by related documentation.

Accordingly, accusations that Ukraine has directly or indirectly violated United Nations sanctions against FRY by exporting the aforementioned consignment of petroleum products to that country are unfounded. The shipments were not made by vessels sailing under the Ukrainian flag, and this in itself demonstrates, from the formal and legal point of view, that there has been no deviation whatsoever from the international standards established by the Security Council.

As a Member of the United Nations and the international community, Ukraine strictly complies with its obligations. Although it is suffering considerable economic hardship as a result of the embargo, the Government of Ukraine is taking and will continue to take all necessary measures to ensure the unqualified and unconditicnal implementation of Security Council resolutions concerning sanctions against FRY.

Evidence of Ukraine's readiness to cooperate in the closest possible manner with the United Nations and European bodies in this regard may be seen in its agreement to the stationing at the Ukrainian ports of Reni and Izmail of international missions to promote the application of sanctions which should begin their work in the very near future.

The Government of Ukraine will continue to do all in its power to ensure close cooperation with the United Nations on matters of priority concern for the international community, including fulfilment of the important United Nations mission to settle the crisis in the territory of the former Yugoslavia.